



NEWS RELEASE

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Program Trains Teachers in the Biomedical Sciences

INDIANAPOLIS (June 19, 2007) -- More than 80 percent of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S. depend upon a knowledge base in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). That's why 33 high school teachers from across the country are participating in a biomedical sciences pilot program at IUPUI, June 18-30, 2007.

The Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences program trains teachers to deliver contextual, problem-based science curriculum that is relevant, and it addresses the need for a quality instructional program to prepare high school students for the rigor of university biomedical sciences training.

"Educating young people in STEM disciplines is critical to the state of Indiana," said William F. Bosron, interim dean of the IUPUI School of Science, where teachers will receive more than 80 hours of core laboratory training.

"By attracting students to careers in the life sciences and biotechnologies, we are addressing a shortage of science-qualified individuals to fulfill Indiana's workforce needs. That begins with high school teachers who will prepare students with the skills they need to be successful in college and later in the high-tech workplace."

"Biomedical sciences is a booming field and is projected to grow rapidly in the foreseeable future," said Andrew Penca, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Our efforts are designed to better equip our Hoosier students with the skills to succeed in this high-wage, high-growth sector."

IUPUI is collaborating with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development in offering the teacher workshops. The state has been promoting the development of STEM programs in Indiana middle schools through programs such as Project Lead the Way, Inc. and other efforts to better prepare the state's emerging workforce for the workplace of the 21st century. The state is funding the course, "Principles of the Biomedical Sciences." Several other states, including Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Oklahoma and South Carolina are also participating in the pilot project.

Project Lead The Way® (PLTW) is a not-for-profit organization that promotes pre-engineering and biomedical sciences courses for middle and high school students. PLTW forms partnerships with public schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers, engineering technologists and

biomedical sciences professionals graduating from our educational system. In Indiana, the project is led by a consortium of organizations, including the Indiana Departments of Education and Workforce Development, Purdue University and Indiana University.

According to a 2005 report by the Indiana Health Industry Forum, life sciences account for the employment of more than 270,000 Hoosiers in more than 12,000 businesses. It creates \$39.98 billion of economic output and \$13 billion in personal income. Further, each health industry job creates 88 jobs elsewhere in the state.

“Programs like Project Lead the Way, which encourage partnerships between K-12 schools, universities and government, encourage strong skill sets in STEM disciplines and help us maintain and enhance our high tech, life sciences workforce,” said Anne Shane, vice president of BioCrossroads.

BioCrossroads is also partnering with IUPUI as a member of the I-STEM Resource Network to support high quality professional development training, such as Project Lead the Way, for math and science teachers in Indiana.

A study by the Indianapolis Private Industry Council Inc. projects thousands of new jobs in the health and life sciences will be created by 2012. Those jobs will depend on a workforce trained with STEM skills.